Claims:

1. A method of operating a peripheral device enabled to communicate using a small computer system interface protocol, said method comprising:

receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

receiving a SCSI inquiry signal;

in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, causing said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

setting a delay timer and entering a delay mode for delaying said peripheral device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal said delay mode set to extend for said pre-determined time period.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

upon expiry of said pre-determined time period, responding to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure.

4. A tape data storage device comprising:

a tape drive mechanism for accepting a removable tape data storage media for storage of data;

at least one buffer memory for temporarily storing data to be read to said tape data storage media and to be written from said tape data storage media;

a small computer system interface driver;

a controller device for controlling said buffer memory, said tape drive mechanism and said small computer system interface driver;

wherein said tape data storage device operates to:

receive a SCSI command write/read signal;

receive a SCSI inquiry signal;

in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

5. The tape data storage device as claimed in claim 4, further operating to:

set a timer and enter a delay mode, said delay mode which delays said data storage device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal set to extend for a pre-determined time period.

6. The tape data storage device as claimed in claim 4, further operable to:

upon expiry of said pre-determined delay time period, respond to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure.

7. A driver for operating a small computer system interface enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver comprising:

means for receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

means for receiving a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer;

wherein in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, said driver causes said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

8. The driver as claimed in claim 7, wherein said driver operates to set a delay timer and enter a delay mode, said delay mode set to extend for said pre-determined time period.

9. The driver as claimed in Claim 7, wherein when in said delay mode, said driver delays sending a response to said SCSI inquiry signal.

10. The driver as claimed in Claim 7 which operates such that:

upon expiry of said pre-determined delay time period, said driver responds to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure.

11. A system of computer entities, communicating via a small computer system interface, said system comprising:

at least one host computer entity;

at least one target computer entity;

said system operating such that:

arbitration is initiated by the target entity, to select the host computer and commencement of data transfer between the host computer and target entity can occur during a bus free period comprising the inquiry period of an inquiry initiated by said host computer to said target entity.

12. Program data comprising program instructions for causing a processor to operate a small computer system interface (SCSI) protocol driver, said driver operating to:

receive a SCSI command write/read signal;

receive an SCSI enquiry signal;

in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, set a delay timer to extend for a pre-determined time period; and

on expiry of said time period, respond to said SCSI enquiry.

13. A driver for operating a small computer system interface enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver operable to:

receive SCSI command write/read signal;

receive a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer;

wherein in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, said driver operates to cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.